

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056798

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 0679 ACTION SECSTATE MAR 4.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0679

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, ZA (KAUNDA, KENNETH)
SUBJ: SCHEDULING VISIT TO U.S.

FOR AF DICK MOOSE

REF: STATE 54746

1. I AM WORRIED BY REPORT OF DIFFICULTIES IN SCHEDULING
KAUNDA'S STATE VISIT TO THE U.S. IN MAY. AS THE DEPARTMENT AND
WHITE HOUSE ARE AWARE, WE ARE ENTERING A CRUCIAL PERIOD IN
RHODESIA DEVELOPMENTS. KAUNDA IS FACED WITH ONE OF THE MOST
DIFFICULT DECISIONS HE HAS EVER HAD TO MAKE. HE HAS TO DECIDE
WHETHER TO THROW HIS FULL SUPPORT BEHIND ZAPU-PATRIOTIC FRONT
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MILITARY FORCES STATIONED IN ZAMBIA THEREBY INVITING SERIOUS
RETALIATION FROM RHODESIA AND, ALMOST INEVITABLY, REZ IRING
SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST MILITARY SUPPORT NOT ONLY FOR THE TRAINING
OF ZAPU BUT DEFENSE AGAINST RHODESIAN INCURSIONS. ALTERNATIVELY,
HE CAN STEP BACK FROM THE BRINK BY ENCOURAGING NKOMO TO SEEK
SOME KIND OF ACCOMMODATION WITH THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS,
EITHER BY MEANS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL OR THE SALISBURY

SETTLEMENT. THIS VISIT COULD IMPORTANTLY EFFECT WHICH PATH HE CHOOSES.

2. KAUNDA IS ALREADY VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT THE INVITATION FOR THE VISIT TO THE U.S. JUSTIFIABLY OR NOT, HE AND CHONA ARE BITTER ABOUT THE WAY LAST YEAR'S INVITATION WAS HANDLED--THE FIVE DAY INTERVAL BETWEEN THE YALE CEREMONY AND THE WHITE HOUSE VISIT AS WELL AS OUR FAILURE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER ANYTHING MORE THAN A 20 MINUTE OFFICE CALL UNTIL THE HAD CANCELLED. THEY BELIEVE THAT IT WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

3. AT THE MOMENT IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE KAUNDA MUCH SATISFACTION TO HIS DEMAND THAT WE REACTIVATE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS THOUGH SERIOUS AND CONTINUOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

4. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THEREFORE THAT THIS SENSITIVE AND EMOTIONAL MAN WILL VIEW ANY POSTPONEMENT OF THE VISIT AS PART OF A POLITICAL EFFORT TO DOWNGRADE HIS IMPORTANCE IN THE RHODESIAN SITUATION AND DIRECT OUR SUPPORT TO THE SALISBURY SETTLEMENT. WE KNOW THAT HE WILL BE ENCOURAGED IN THIS BY THE SOVIETS HERE WHO HAVE SHOWN CONSIDERABLE INTELLIGENCE INTEREST IN THE VISIT.

5. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION IS THAT OF THE DOMESTIC ELECTIONS IN ZAMBIA WHICH ARE DKS TO BE HELD LATER IN THE YEAR AND WHICH WILL REQUIRE KAUNDA'S FULL ENERGY AND ATTENTION IN VIEW OF HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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DIFFICULT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION.

6. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT TWO MONTHS FROM NOW THE MILITARY SITUATION WILL HAVE HEATED UP AND KAUNDA WILL HAVE MADE DECISIONS TO SEEK FURTHER COMMUNIST SUPPORT. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES HE COULD USE THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS A PLATFORM TO CRITICIZE THE U.S. (AND UK) FOR BETRAYING HIM IN THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

7. HOWEVER, WE THINK IT MORE LIKELY (PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF HIS NEED FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT) THAT THE PROSPECT OF A VISIT WILL INHIBIT HIM FROM ANY FINAL DECISION TO PERMIT A SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY OF CUBAN OR SOVIET PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO ENTER ZAMBIA AND WE BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER COULD HAVE A VERY POWERFUL INFLUENCE ON THIS MOST IMPRESSIONABLE MAN. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THEREFORE THAT A VISIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE COULD PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN DISSUADING KAUNDA FROM A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WOULD BRING FURTHER CUBAN AND SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AN IMPORTANT AREA OF AFRICA.

8. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO MAINTAIN THE SCHEDULE SUGGESTED BY THE ZAMBIANS FOR A VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN THE SECOND HALF OF MAY. LOW

UNQUOTE VANCE

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